***To Kill A Mocking Bird***: Chapter 1 and 2 Vocabulary

**Chapter 1 Vocabulary**

**Ambled:** (vb.) to walk at a slow, leisurely pace. Apothecary (n.): an early form of a pharmacist, apothecaries could also prescribe drugs.

**Assuaged** (vb.): to assuage is to lessen or to calm. Therefore, if Jem's fears about being able to play football were assuaged, it means that he no longer feared that he wouldn't be able to play the sport.

**beadle** (n.): a minor city official, lower in rank than either a sheriff or a policeman, whose main duties revolve around preserving order at various civil functions such as trials and town hall meetings.

**Brethren** (n.): in this case, members of a particular church or sect

**Corsets** (n): a corset is a ladies undergarment designed to produce a particular effect on the figure. That effect usually results in a slim (or slimmer) waist and larger busts and hips.

**Dictum** (n.): in this case, a formal statement of principle

**Domiciled** (vb.): A domicile is a house or a place where a person lives. If you are domiciled somewhere, that is where you live. The Finch family lived in the northern part of the county.

**Eaves** (n.): the lower edges of a roof which usually project beyond the side of a building

**Foray** (n.): When you make a foray, you go somewhere or do something that is unusual or not normal for you. It was certainly not Jem's usual behavior to go near the Radley house; thus, doing so was a fumy for him.

**Human chattels** (n.): slaves

**Impotent** (adj.): powerless. Simon's fury and anger regarding the Civil War would certainly have been impotent because there would have been nothing he could have done about it.

**Impudent** (adj.): To be impudent is to be shamelessly bold, as if you don't care what anyone thinks about you. Since the Haverfords did something illegal in front of witnesses, Lee rightfully describes them as impudent. . .

**Malevolent** (adj.): evil

**Methodists** (n): members of a branch of a Protestant Christian denomination.

**Picket** (n): a pointed or sharpened pole or stake. Many pickets held together can make a picket fence

**Piety** (n): devotion to religious duties and practices

**Predilection** (n.): a predilection is a preference, or a preferred way of doing something. Thus, the Radley's preferred way of spending a Sunday afternoon was to keep the doors closed and not receive visitors

**Ramrod** (adj.): rigid, severe, straight

***Repertoire was vapid***: (n. {> adj.): a **repertoire** is all the special skills a person has; **vapid**, in this case, means boring or uninteresting. So, when Scout says that their repertoire was vapid, she means that the games they had invented to pass the time had become old and had lost their interest.

**Scold** (n.): A scold is a person who scolds; that is, someone who often finds fault with people or things (and usually lets you know about it under no uncertain terms)

**Spittoon** (n.): a jar like container to spit into; usually used to spit tobacco juice into.

**Strictures** (n.): conditions or rules

**Taciturn** (adj.): almost always silent. Apparently, Aunt Alexandra's husband was a very quiet man.

**Unsullied** (adj.): something that is **unsullied** has been basically untouched or unused. The fact that Atticus's edition of the Code of Alabama is unsullied would, in this case, indicate that he seldom consults this book.

**Veranda** (n): a portico or porch with a roof

**Chapter 2 Vocabulary**

**Auburn** (adj.): reddish-brown

**Catawba worms** (n.): Catawba worms are actually caterpillars that are highly prized by fishermen in the Southern United States.

**Condescended** (vb.): To condescend is to agree to do something that you believe to be beneath your dignity. Jem condescends to take Scout to school, even though, as a fifth-grader, he feels superior to his first-grade sister.

­**Covey** (n.): a group

**Crimson** (adj.): blood-red

**Cunning** (adj.): In this case, cunning means attractive or cute --almost too cute

**Entailment** (n.): a legal situation regarding the use of inherited property.

**Hookworms** (n.): a type of parasite. Hookworms usually enter the body through bare feet and move through the body to the small intestines where they attach themselves with a series of hooks around their mouths.

**Immune** (adj.): In this case, to be immune to something means that it has no effect on you. The story Miss Caroline reads to the class has no effect on them; they don't get it.

**Indigenous** (adj.): belonging to a particular region or country

**Scrip stamps** (n.): paper money of small denominations (less than $1.00) issued for temporary emergency use. During the Great Depression, many local and state governments gave out scrip stamps, or sometimes tokens, to needy people.

**Seceded** (vb.): To secede is to break away. During the Civil War, Alabama was one of the states that broke away, or seceded from the Union.

**Smilax** (n.): a bright green twinning vine, often used for holiday decorations.

**Sojourn** (n.): a brief visit

**Subsequent mortification** (adj. + n.): Something that is subsequent will follow closely after something else. Mortification is a feeling of shame or the loss of self respect. If Scout had been able to explain things to Miss Caroline, she could have prevented her teacher from losing self respect of feeling shameful later on.

**Vexations** (n.): To vex is to annoy, so a vexation is something that causes annoyance or problems.

Wallowing illicitly (vb. + adv.): In this case, to wallow is to indulge in something (usually an activity) with great enjoyment. Illicit, used like this, means unauthorized or improper. After listening to Miss Caroline, Scout feels that, by reading that has been happily indulging in something which she should not have been doing.